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SHEAFFER JEANNE M
78 MONTEVIDEO 698

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CU-04 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAF-00 /059 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5948

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: YEHUDI MENUHIN'S INTEREST IN MIGUEL
ESTRELLA

GENEVA FOR AME. VANDEN HEUVEL FROM CHARGE

SECSTATE FOR ARA/ECA AMB. PEZZULLO

REF: GENEVA 3196 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO IS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON
ATTENDING APA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. I AM TAKING
THE LIBERTY OF SENDING YOU FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE TEXT
OF HIS FEBRUARY 24 REPLY TO YEHUDI MENUHIN'S FEBRUARY 9
LETTER TO HIM, WHICH CONTAINS AN UP TO DATE REPORT OF OUR
INVOLVEMENT IN THE ESTRELLA CASE.

2. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S REPLY SENT TO
MENUHIN'S LONDON ADDRESS VIA EMBASSY LONDON: QUOTE
DEAR MR. MENUHIN: I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 9
REGARDING THE ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT BY THE URUGUAYAN
AUTHORITIES OF PIANIST, MIGUEL ANGEL ESTRELLA. I BROUGHT

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YOUR LETTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND
URGED THAT HE ADVISE HIS GOVERNMENT OF YOUR CONCERN AND
OF THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU IN THIS EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT
THE RELEASE OF MR. ESTRELLA. NOTING THE NUMBER OF INTER-
NATIONALLY PRESTIGIOUS PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS EFFORT,
I TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE
GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY WEIGH CAREFULLY THE INTERNATIONAL
CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ACTIONS AND ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS IN
THIS MATTER.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS WELL AWARE OF THE CASE AND INFORMED
ME THAT HE ALSO HAD BEEN APPROACHED RECENTLY BY THE BRITISH
AMBASSADOR. HE, AND OTHER URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS THAT I HAVE
CONTACTED, INDICATE THAT MR. ESTRELLA IS BEING HELD UNDER
URUGUAYAN SECURITY LAWS FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN
URUGUAY WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ARGENTINE-BASED MCNTONEPO
MOVEMENT. I UNDERSTAND MR. ESTRELLA IS VERY UPSET WITH HIS
DETENTION, BUT OTHERWISE IS IN GOOD HEALTH. HE IS CON-
FINED IN LA LIBERTAD PRISON, A RELATIVELY NEW FACILITY.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY L. Mami DATE 5/1/80

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

EXCISE

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QUITE CLEARLY THE URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES AT MANY LEVELS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE EFFORTS OF YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THIS MATTER, AS WELL AS THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY MYSELF AND OTHER OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES.

YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN THIS MATTER. SINCERELY YOURS,
LAWRENCE A. PEZZULLO, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. UNQUOTE.

3. WE APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH THERE PROBABLY IS NOT TOO MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE FROM THERE, YOU COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES PRIVATELY

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TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH GOU OFFICIALS EITHER ASSIGNED TO OR PASSING THROUGH GENEVA. AS INDICATED ABOVE THE POINTS TO MAKE ARE: (A) BY IMPRISONING ESTRELLA THE GOU RISKS INCURRING A BOYCOTT OF URUGUAY BY THE WORLD'S LEADING CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC FIGURES WHICH WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE NATION'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE; (B) ALTHOUGH ALLEGED OFFENSES OF ESTRELLA ARE DIRECTED AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, THE GOA NOTABLY HAS NEITHER REQUESTED HIS EXTRADITION NOR PUBLICLY SUPPORTED HIS DETENTION BY THE GOU; (C) THE GOU SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER WHERE URUGUAYAN SELF-INTEREST LIE IN DISPOSING OF THIS CASE.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ESTRELLA CASE CLOSELY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ASSIST. WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

5. YOU MAY WISH TO REPEAT YOUR TELEGRAM TO LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR BREWSTER WHO ALSO HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MENUHIN ON THIS MATTER.

CHEEK

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